

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042088

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R 020019Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WA, US

SUBJECT: DIGGS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON NAMIBIA

REF; STATE 032160

1. HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA HAS BEGUN NEW SERIES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NAMIBIA IN WAKE OF RECENT SWAPO AND SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE ARRESTS. AT FIRST HEARING HELD ON FEB 21 LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW REPRESENTATIVE WACHHOLZ, ACOA VICE PRESIDENT LANDIS AND CHIEF SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE IN US, THEO BEN BURIRAB, WERE THE WITNESSES. WACHHOLZ DESCRIBED RECENT ARRESTS AND BEATINGS OF SWAPO AND SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS AND EMPHASIZED LACK OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT STATUS OF DETAINEES. SWAPO REP ALSO REVIEWED RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, DESCRIBED NAMIBIAN POLITICAL SITUATION SINCE MID-1971 AS "EXPLOSIVE" AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD GIVE CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF ITS OPPOSITION TO SAG POLICIES IN NAMIBIA.

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MRS. LANDIS RECOMMENDED USG UNDERTAKE ACTIONS; (A) TO

INTERVENE DIRECTLY ON BEHALF OF THE DETAINEES (STRONG USG PROTEST TO SAG, USG OBSERVER AT DETAINEE TRIALS AND SUB-COMMITTEE PRESS CONFERENCE TO PUBLICIZE ARRESTS) AND (B) "TO BRING PRESSURE" ON SAG TO GRANT NAMIBIA ITS INDEPENDENCE (E.G. U.S. RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA

AS GOVT. OF NAMIBIA, U.S.G. PROHIBITION OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN NAMIBIA AND MORE RESTRICTIVE DEFINITION OF U.S. ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH AFRICA.)

2. DIGGS HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT WITNESS TO APPEAR AT SECOND HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21 AND TO BRIEF SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOLLOWING NAMIBIAN TOPICS: (A) PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION, (B) ACTIONS OF ILLEGAL SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, (C) SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE HOMELANDS, (D) REMOVALS, (E) LABOR SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYMENT, AND (F) POSITION OF NAMIBIANS ON THE ABOVE TOPICS. COMMERCE DEPT. AND SECURITY AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REPS ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT MARCH 21 HEARING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR HEARING DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING NOT LATER THAN MARCH 15 FROM EMBASSY CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE SIX TOPICS MENTIONED ABOVE. (EMBASSY MAY CITE ITS PREVIOUS REPORTING WHERE APPROPRIATE). TIME FRAME SHOULD BE PREVIOUS YEAR WITH EMPHASIS ON EVENTS OF PAST 4-6 MONTHS. CASEY

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